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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raiko Raichev (Bulgaria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.27

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Reaffirming the importance for Habitat II, inter alia, of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1/ and the objectives, basis for action, activities and means of implementation of those activities, set out in chapter 7, entitled "Promoting sustainable human

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

settlements development", and in relevant provisions of chapter 28 of Agenda 21, entitled "Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21", 2/

Noting with interest the progress made so far in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as described in the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its organizational session 3/ and its first session, 4/ as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work of the Preparatory Committee and the ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, 5/

Noting also with interest the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its fourteenth session, 6/

Noting the recommendations relevant to human settlements contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, 7/

Noting with concern that the resources currently available to the secretariat for the Conference, through voluntary contributions, among other sources, including redeployment of resources from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), remain insufficient to support the preparatory process for the Conference on the scale envisaged by the General Assembly in resolution 47/180, in particular with respect to the ability of the secretariat to provide assistance to developing countries and other States requiring such assistance in their national preparatory efforts for the Conference,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its organizational session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 5 March 1993 3/ and its first substantive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 April 1994, 4/ and endorses the decisions contained therein;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General concerning progress in the preparations for the Conference; 5/

3. Approves the recommendation contained in decision I/1 of the Preparatory Committee that a third substantive session of the Preparatory

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2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/48/37).

4/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37).

5/ A/49/272.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8).

7/ E/1994/33.

Committee, of relatively short duration, be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference; 8/

4. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee in its decision I/2 on preparations at the country, regional and global levels, on the draft statement of principles and commitments and on the draft global plan of action, which is to be structured around the two main themes of the Conference: "Adequate shelter for all" and "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world"; 8/

5. Takes note with interest the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "city summit", and reaffirms its decision that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation; 9/

6. Recommends that the global plan of action of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) take into account the outcome of all relevant United Nations global conferences;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organs, organizations, agencies and programmes intensify their efforts and cooperate closely to prepare for the Conference;

8. Recommends also that the inclusion of sustainable human settlements issues, as contained in chapter 7 of Agenda 21, be given appropriate attention within the context of an agenda for development, which is being prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 47/181 of 22 December 1992 and 48/166 of 21 December 1993, and reaffirms the overall human settlements objective is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor;

9. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

10. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially those of the developed countries and others in a position to do so, and to international and regional financial institutions, to contribute substantially to the voluntary funds established by the General Assembly in resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and of supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

8/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37), annex I.

9/ Resolution 47/180, para. 1.

11. Requests that the work of the Preparatory Committee and the secretariat of Habitat II should continue to be funded within existing United Nations budgetary resources to ensure that the Conference will be treated adequately with respect to other global international United Nations conferences;

12. Takes note of the contributions of the United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes and other relevant organizations active in the field of human settlements to the work of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat II in the discharge of its mandate and invites them to mobilize financial resources to assist developing countries, at their request, in the preparation of their national reports;

13. Encourages all relevant interested non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, to participate in, and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process, on the basis of procedures followed at recent United Nations conferences;

14. Also encourages the above-mentioned organizations to contribute fully to increasing world awareness of the problems and potential of human settlements as important inputs to social progress and economic growth, and world leaders to commit themselves to making cities, towns and villages healthy, safe, just and sustainable;

15. Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme activities for 1995 an item on the preparations for the Conference, with particular emphasis on preparations for the Conference in their respective regions, and to submit a report on those preparations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

16. Calls upon all States to encourage the broad-based participation of local authorities and all relevant actors, including the scientific community, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the national, regional and international preparatory process and to encourage a wide exchange of information and experience in this respect, in particular on the programmes of work and activities of national committees;

17. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the progress made in the preparations for the Conference, including the implementation of the present resolution;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the sub-item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".